

THE BEE

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EDITOR AT DURHAM

Dr. J. E. Shepard is Doing a Good Work

THINGS HE SAW AND HEARD

BUSINESS MEN OF DURHAM.

Wonderful Growth of the Southern Negro-Greatest Insurance Company in the World.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

If I am to judge the South by what I see here in Durham, N. C., my opinion of the Southland is changed from this moment. I am giving my opinion of the conditions in this section of the South as I see them. I have been in Durham, N. C., just one week, and I assure you that I don't find as much laziness here as I find in the North. There is no necessity for any one to be idle in Durham, and I am informed by reliable persons that the same conditions exist in other sections of the State. I am not writing from hearsay, but from personal observations and contact.

Both Races
are living together here in perfect harmony. The "Jim Crow" cars don't seem to disturb the people in the least because you will hardly see over three or four colored people riding on them at any time. The most progressive colored citizens own their own teams and carriages. They are under no obligations to the street car system. I asked a prominent colored citizen what he thought of the "Jim Crow" system at Durham. He thought it was a Godsend in disguise. It tends to force the colored people to become more united. In many instances

The White Physicians

and the white dentists hold sway here. Now the colored physician and dentist about monopolize the medical profession. The colored people with but one exception employ colored physicians and dentists. I came in contact with every prominent colored physician in the city. Every one is doing well. Dr. Charles H. Shepard, brother of Dr. James E. Shepard, seems to be the most successful and the most prominent in the city. He recently married a very accomplished young lady who seems to be a great help to the young physician. Speaking of people

In Business.

The North can't hold the light for the colored people in Durham. The North Carolina colored American, from my standpoint, can't ever teach the Northern colored man how to conduct business. I shall first take up the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, which is reputed to be the greatest insurance company in the world among colored people. The company is officered by such well known business men as John Merrick, who is the president and founder. Mr. Merrick is one among the leading business men in this city. He is married and has a most excellent wife and several children. It is rumored that his only single daughter is to be married shortly to a well-known physician in Winston, N. C. I understand that this young physician has a very large practice. Miss Merrick is regarded as the belle of Durham. She is faultless in her dress. The Merricks live on Fayette Street, a fashionable part of the city.

President Merrick is a genial and agreeable companion. He wears a smile that never comes off. He is one of the strongest of supporters the National Religious Training School has, and a man of considerable wealth. I went with him Thursday to his church on Fayette Street, which is one of the most imposing in the city. I have never seen a church so well

constructed. The situation of the organ, pulpit, and the arrangement of the seats was perfect. This is the church that the elder Duke made a gift of \$1,000. In the center of the structure is a large memorial window of the elder Duke. Mr. Merrick is a strong church man and liberal to the cause of Christianity. He secured his start in life when quite young, and today I am told that he is the second richest colored man in Durham. The contest for the honor is between him and Fitzgerald. The latter is the manufacturer of bricks, and in speaking with a representative of the Morning Herald, of whom I shall speak later on, I was informed by him that the reason Fitzgerald's bricks are more salable than the white man's brick, is they are better brick.

Dr. A. M. Moore, M. D., is the secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina Mutual Aid Provident Association. Mr. Moore is a matter of fact kind of a man, and a thorough race man. He is also interested in the Durham Textile Mills, Inc., manufacturers of hosiery, of which I shall speak later on. He is also a business man and a Christian worker in the church and Sabbath school. He believes in the uplift of the Negro. He has two very accomplished daughters who were graduated from Shaw University this month. Mrs. Moore is also a good home woman and a genial companion.

Mr. C. C. Spaulding is vice-president and general manager of the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association. Now if you want to see brains and a man of business, you want to meet Mr. Spaulding. What he doesn't know about insurance is not worth knowing. I called at his home office on Parrish Street Monday morning, May 22. I found him opening his mail and distributing it to his several clerks in the several departments for action. I was introduced to the employees of the office and was shown the character of their work. In this office there are 12 ladies and six men, who are up to date in business. Prof. J. A. Dyer, an expert accountant, is a graduate of Wilberforce and a man of ability.

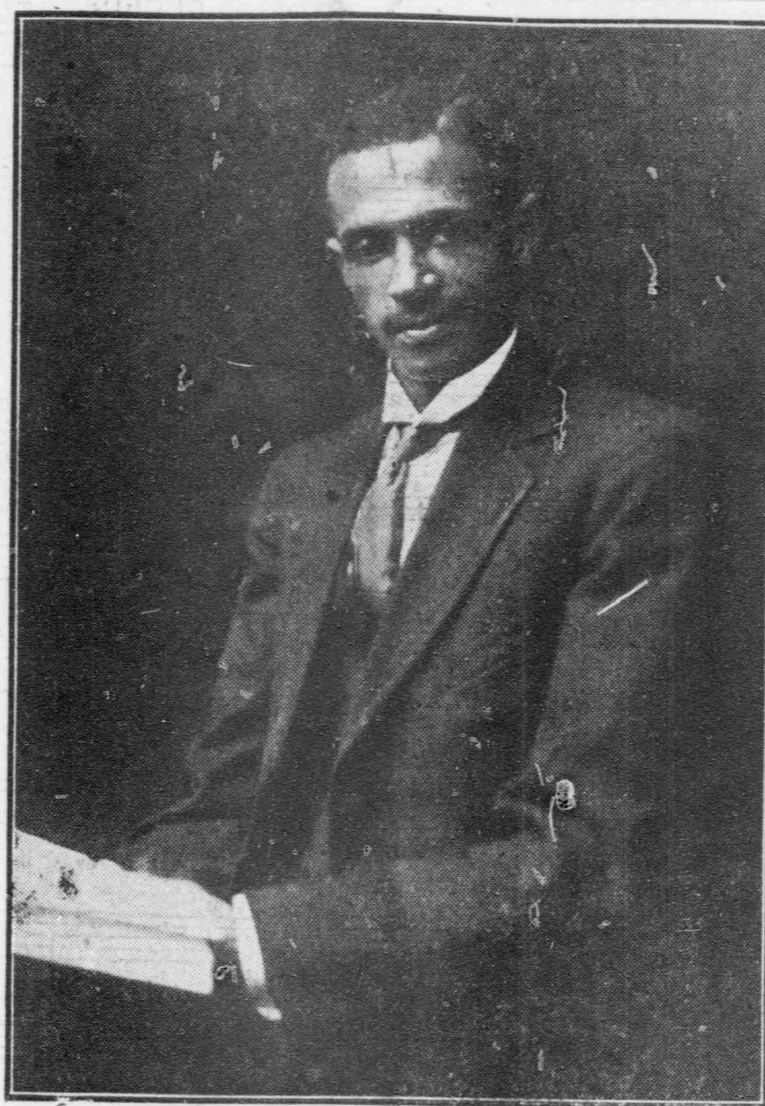
Mr. J. L. Wheeler is the assistant manager and a graduate of Kittell. The official stenographer of the company is Miss S. V. Gitt. Her work, says Manager Spaulding, is satisfactory.

Mr. John Merrick, Jr., has returned from Howard, and he will succeed his sister, Miss Mabel V. Merrick, who is to marry Dr. W. H. Bruce, of Winston, N. C. There is no insurance company in the city that has a better system of bookkeeping.

There are three branches of the company, to wit: It has \$75,000 invested in North Carolina; \$20,000 cash bond in South Carolina; \$5,000 in Atlantic City bonds, Georgia, all of which branches are under the general management of Mr. C. C. Spaulding. This manager has a cool and level head who has made the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association and its two branch companies, the greatest institutions conducted by colored men in the United States. I am informed that the weekly income is \$500.42 per week. It is by his wise and judicious management that has won the confidence and support of the people. The recent ruling of the Insurance Commission will necessitate the company to sell all of its real property and invest its funds for the protection of the policyholders. I have sent under separate cover the cuts of the principal offices of the company, which will give the readers of The Bee an idea of the character of men who are conducting the greatest insurance company in the United States. I shall now leave this company for the present and divert my readers' attention for a short time to

The Carolina Mutual
Life Insurance Company, whose home

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DR. JAMES E. SHEPARD.

TRAINING SCHOOL

A Jubilee Week at Durham School DOING GREAT WORK

Durham, N. C., May 27.
The first notice of the proposed National Religious Training School appeared in the Bee. At the time Dr. Shepard stated that he intended to erect buildings for such a school. I have been informed by the people here that they laughed at him and said that he was building air castles. Well, I wish you could see the air castles. This school is a fact, and the buildings have materialized in deed and in fact. This school is situated in the southern section of Durham. It is beautifully located and has in its grounds a spring which supplies water that cannot be found anywhere in the State. I want to give you an idea of the buildings: The Avery Auditorium is centrally located upon the grounds and fronts the main street. Fayette is the principal street in which colored Americans live, and this street takes you to the school.

The auditorium will hold fully 700 or 800 people. Many distinguished citizens have spoken from its platform. The dining hall and the men's and women's dormitories are two large buildings, which will be seen elsewhere in The Bee, which I have sent on to appear in this week's issue of The Bee. There are several other buildings being erected and will not doubt be completed in a few weeks. President Shepard will erect a home for himself and family opposite the school grounds this summer. The teachers are all high-class instructors. Prof. H. A. Clark, of Philadelphia, is director of music. He writes all the music that is sung at the school. He is a high-class composer. I have sent on his cut and a piece of music which he composed and dedicated to Dr. James E. Shepard. There is a students' band at the institution under the direction of Prof. Clark and Prof. C. G. O. Kelly, leader of the band. I must stop now and tell you of the commencement exercises. This school is new to the people of Durham and the entire school Dr. Shepard has given something that no other man in the South has ever given. The exercises at the school began Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The baccalaureate sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. A. P. Ricard, of Springfield, Mass. This gentleman is one of the leading ministers in the South. For one hour he electrified his audience. The auditorium was filled with the leading people in the city. The entire program was interesting. The band of the school rendered many musical selections under the direction of the leader. Monday evening was an oratorical contest in which the following participated:
Oration, "Mind the Master Force"..... Mr. George McCorkle
Orchestra selection, "Our Lieutenant" (Luigo)..... N. R. T. S. Orchestra
Oration, "The Kind of Young Men Wanted"..... Mr. Harmon Taylor
Overture, "Prince's Dream" (Evans)..... N. R. T. S. Orchestra
Oration, "Some Advantages of a College Education"..... Mr. Elmer Turner
The judges of this contest were Mr. W. T. Bost, of the Daily Herald, this city; James Ganson, Y. M. C. A., Fall River, Mass., and W. Calvin Chase, of The Bee.
The speeches were good and much interest was manifested in them by the contestants. The report of the judges was received with enthusiasm.
There was much interest manifested in the address on Tuesday evening by Dr. W. P. Few, of Durham, N. C., and president of Trinity College. He didn't think so much of Dr. Du Bois, but he did pay Dr. Booker T. Washington a high compliment. Dr. Few entertained Judge Stafford at the select club of

ville, Fla. The choral class elicited unguarded applause in its rendition of "Inflammatus," by Rossini. The solo work of Pearl V. Reid was good.

One of the finest introductions ever made by President James E. Shepard, one that was equal to his introduction of Dr. Eliot, President Emeritus Harvard University, was made by Dr. Shepard this morning in introducing Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford, Associate Justice, Supreme Court District of Columbia, who received an ovation which registered one of the negro's deep appreciations of his white friends.

"The Gospel of Poetry" was the subject of the judge's address, which was an effort which caused a stronger and deeper recognition of true poetry, being a heavenly inspiration found in the nature of a peasant as well as the patriarch. The following utterance, "Poetry is a golden bridge from the real to the ideal," conveyed a gospel strongly enunciated by him, which imbued his audience. That a man does not wear his heart upon his sleeve, and this fact was accentuated by his statement that Kipling was the poet laureate of the laborer, and his high poetry showed the laborer was doing a poetic work.

Among the greatest needs of the country, he said, was a singer of the true cause of the nation, and inspiring epics were shown to be created by their authors' lives being in touch with nature and humanity.

As an example of the negro race being poetic by nature, he spoke of one of his court experiences when a negro, in reply to a query concerning his ability to make home comfortable for his wife, for whom he was pleading to be released from the hospital for insane, said: "Home is comfortable for me when she is there."

Judge Stafford said in part:
"It is a great pleasure to have a part in such an occasion as this. It is the second commencement of your school. You are still on the threshold of your undertaking. What it may bring forth for the good of the black race and the welfare of the country at large cannot be foretold, for none of us will presume to claim the gift of prophecy. But there are present here such cheerful auguries, such solid grounds for hope, as ought to make any good citizen rejoice and take courage. In the first place, your enterprise has had a natural and sound origin. It has come into being to meet a want that actually exists and must be recognized and dealt with. The colored people need an institution of this character. They need competent teachers. They need sensible and devoted pastors. They need wise, true leaders. And to furnish these is the principal aim and purpose of this school. There are two ways of judging a people. One is by the great men and women it produces. The other is by the average merit of the mass of the race. But the two always go together. A great race produces great representatives; and great representatives raise and lead forward the people from which they sprang. Think of the greatest man of the ancient time, the mighty lawgiver of Israel, Moses was the true child of his race, and he proved his greatness by leading his people out of the land of bondage into a land of liberty and light. Or take the black race and think of Toussaint L'Ouverture. A slave on a San Domingo plantation who became a chieftain, a ruler, a statesman, and finally a martyr for his people. His fate stirred the pulse of Wordsworth, who wrote of him:

"There's not a breathing of the common wind
That will forget thee!"

"We might come nearer home, to our own day, and not lack for example.

"This school was born of the realization of this deep truth, that every race must have its leaders. It is not enough to provide for the average man; you

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PROGRESSIVE MEN

History of W. G. Pearson

MAN WHO HAS BEEN A SUCCESS

Durham, N. C., May 24.
The first 15 years of his life were spent on the farm; the next five years were spent in the tobacco factories. During these years, from 10 to 21, he attended county public schools on an average of two months a year. He also attended night school the last five years and worked in the factory during the day.

At the age of 22, he entered Shaw University at Raleigh, N. C., with \$17.50, the savings of one year's work. His parents being poor and unable to help him, he had to leave school after four months, but he was not discouraged. He saved enough during that year to re-enter the University at the beginning of the Fall term. At this point Gen. Julian S. Carr thought he saw something in the struggling youth and agreed to pay his tuition, which he did for four years, and in 1886 Prof. Pearson graduated with honors from the University.

In the same year of his graduation he took charge of the village school, and two years later was elected principal of the City High School, which position he is still holding. The present enrollment of his school is 860, with 18 well equipped teachers. Beside the literary course, they have departments of domestic science, art, millinery and woodwork. These departments are well equipped, and when work is turned out, it equals that which comes from any factory. The work which is done in the woodwork shop, equals that which comes from the factories in Michigan.

Aside from his school work, he has founded the Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, established Whitted Woodworking & Manufacturing Company, of which he is president. He is also president of the Durham Broom Factory and manager of a fraternal organization known as the Royal Knights of King David. The Royal Knights of King David, the fraternal organization of which he is manager, is one of the greatest Negro organizations in the world and is doing an immense business in the Southern States.

He has worked every hour of his life and has made a very nice little fortune of \$40,000.

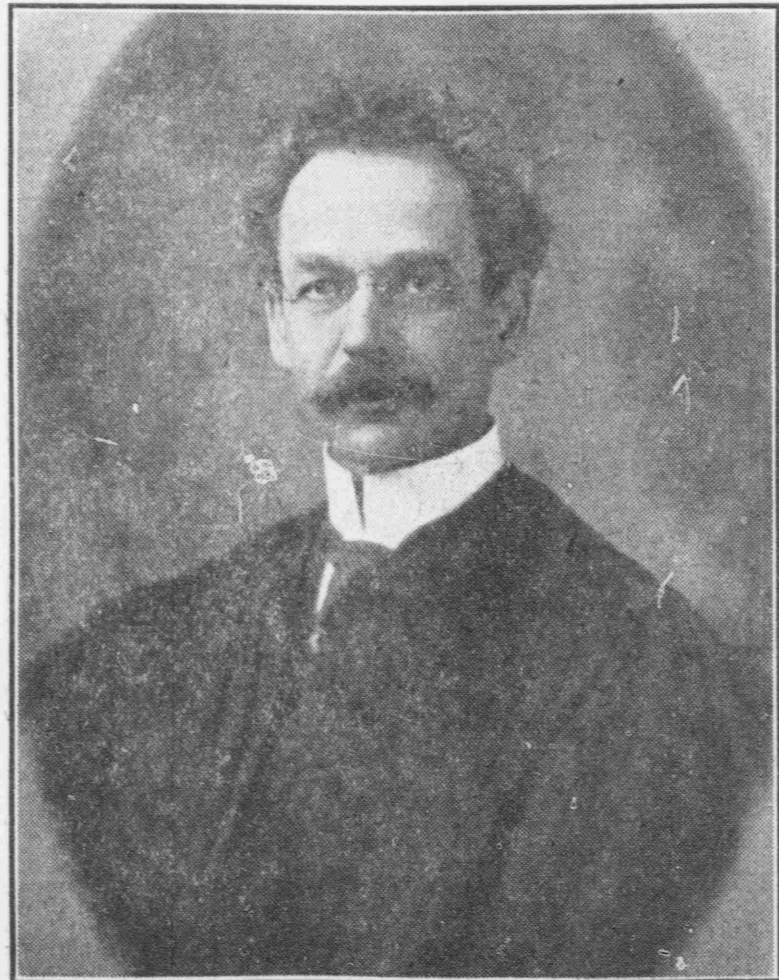
Prof. Pearson, thus striving onward and upward, did not forget the poor around him. Seeing some were scarcely able to get the necessities of life, he founded, September 24, 1883, in the city of Durham, N. C., this great fraternal organization, which has \$15,000 at the back of it, and \$5,000 has been placed with the Insurance Commissioner to protect every member.

The Royal Knights of King David is a chartered secret institution and has its signs, grips, passwords, jewels, etc., and can be sued. No person can have an excuse as to the joining fees, which are \$2.50, being too expensive. The monthly dues are 25 cents. The object of this great institution is to unite, as well as protect and aid each other. The Board of Directors are the following well-known men: J. S. Pearson, Durham, N. C.; John M. Avery, Durham, N. C.; Rev. J. C. Cox, Cheraw, S. C.; John Merrick, Durham, N. C.; W. G. Pearson, Durham, N. C.

May success always crown their efforts for good.



JUSTICE WENDELL PHILLIPS STAFFORD, Who Electrified the Southern People—His Masterly Address to the Graduates of the National Training School.



PROF. W. G. PEARSON, of Durham, N. C., and S. G. S. the Royal Knights of King David.